

UNOLS News Coronavirus Considerations Document - UPDATED

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UNOLS Community -

We have spent considerable time over the past few weeks talking to medical professionals (GW Maritime Medical Association, Discovery Health who supports the Pacific Northwest Fishing fleet, and the University of Washington Medical Center) and obtaining feedback on the original *Coronavirus Considerations for Making Decisions Regarding Conducting Science Onboard U.S. Academic Research Fleet Vessels (Vers 1.6 last updated 15 April 2020)* document . We have incorporated these recommendations into an updated [\*Coronavirus Considerations for Making Decisions Regarding Conducting Science Onboard U.S. Academic Research Fleet Vessels \(ARF\) \(Vers 1.8 last updated 1 Jun 2020\)\*](#) .

Safety of the crew and science party continues to be of utmost importance. The updated guidance outlines the "Gold Standard" for mitigating risk of a COVID-19 outbreak onboard and is a combination of strict 14-day self isolation and conducting multiple RT-PCR tests. We believe this is especially important for high risk cruises as classified in the updated document. There is no perfect solution but we think there is enough known now that an appropriate period of self-isolation, coupled with multiple negative RT-PCR tests, provides the best chance of having no cases develop onboard ship.

The operators have been working overtime to ready the ships for science and make sure they have policies and procedures together to help mitigate the risk and keep all onboard safe. We appreciate your patience and flexibility in these trying times.

Best,

Alice, Doug, & Craig